IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier that automatically adapts to various wire gauges and insulation thicknesses, comprising:

~~automatic adaptation to various wire gauges and insulation thicknesses with~~ two pairs of pivotable jaws of which the jaws of a first, outer pair are configured as gripper jaws ~~(33)~~ which are pivotable by means of a first ~~jaw~~ plier arm ~~(1)~~ and a jaw part ~~(3)~~ about a common pivot point ~~(5)~~, and the jaws of the other, inner pair that are configured as cutting jaws ~~(41)~~ with blades that cut into the insulation, and with a pull rod ~~(43)~~ attached to the ~~cutter~~ cutting jaws ~~(41)~~ and longitudinally moveable within the jaw body providing the stripping motion that is coupled with a second plier arm ~~(7)~~ via a link ~~(9)~~, wherein

at least one sliding wedge ~~(13, 23~~ is mounted in a recess shaped to match the sliding wedge ~~(13, 23) within~~, the recess located in the first plier arm ~~(1)~~ or in the jaw part ~~(3)~~, ~~whereby~~ wherein a first sliding wedge ~~(15, 25)~~ surface facing the cutting jaws is flat and a second sliding wedge ~~(17, 27)~~ surface resting in the recess is so shaped that the ~~separation~~ distance between both sliding ~~wedges at~~ wedge surfaces decreases from a central area of the sliding wedge ~~(13, 23)~~ ~~diminishes~~ toward at least one of the two sliding wedge ends, and wherein

squeezing the wire-stripping plier causes longitudinal displacement of the sliding wedge ~~(13, 23)~~ along with simultaneous matching of position of the sliding wedge ~~(13, 23)~~ perpendicular to the longitudinal direction that results in cutting-depth adjustment of the cutting jaws ~~(41)~~ and the cutting blade ~~(37)~~ attached to ~~it~~ the cutting jaws.

2. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier according to Claim 1, wherein a first sliding wedge ~~(13)~~ is mounted in a first recess in the first plier arm ~~(1)~~, and a second sliding wedge ~~(23)~~ is mounted in a recess in the jaw part ~~(3)~~, and wherein the second surfaces ~~(17, 27)~~ of the sliding wedge ~~(13, 23)~~ are bow-shaped.

3. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier according to Claim 2, wherein the first sliding wedge ~~(13)~~ is connected with the jaw part ~~(3)~~ and the second sliding wedge ~~(23)~~ is connected

with the first plier arm via a second coupling rod ~~(29)~~, and that, when the wire-stripping plier is compressed, the jaw part ~~(3)~~ is displaced longitudinally, while simultaneously the second coupling rod ~~(29)~~ holds the second sliding wedge ~~(23)~~ firmly, the jaw part ~~(3)~~ is extended outward by the movement about the second sliding wedge ~~(23)~~ and thus corresponding adaptation of the second sliding wedge ~~(23)~~ results from this relative displacement.

4. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier according to Claim 1, wherein the side of the ~~cutter~~ cutting jaws ~~(41)~~ facing the sliding wedge ~~(13, 23)~~ includes a first projection ~~(51)~~ to create a point-shaped arrangement of the ~~cutter~~ cutting jaws ~~(41)~~ on the sliding-wedge surface ~~(15, 25)~~ and a second projection ~~(53)~~ that centers the middle position of the moving ~~cutter~~ cutting jaws.

5. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier according to Claim 1, wherein each of the gripper jaws ~~(33)~~ possesses a raised gripper tooth ~~(47)~~, and wherein the raised gripper tooth ~~(47)~~ and the ~~cutter~~ cutting blade ~~(37)~~ include one-sided mirror-image angled cutting strips.

6. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier according to Claim 1, wherein the shape of the second surfaces ~~(17, 27)~~ causes a slight longitudinal displacement of the sliding-wedge surfaces ~~(17, 27)~~, which leads to a slight opening of the ~~cutter~~ cutting blades ~~(37)~~ as the ~~cutter~~ cutting jaws ~~(41)~~ glide during the stripping process.

7. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~cutter~~ cutting blade ~~(37)~~ is attached to the ~~cutter jaw~~cutting jaw holders ~~(41)~~ so that it may be removed.

8. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier according to Claim 1, wherein the gripper jaws ~~(33)~~ are mounted in receiver jaws ~~(59)~~ so that they may be removed, and wherein the separation of the gripper jaws ~~(33)~~ is adjustable with respect to the gripping plane.

9. (Currently Amended) A wire-stripping plier according to Claim 1, wherein a wire cutter ~~(45)~~ is positioned between the first plier arm ~~(1)~~ and the second plier arm ~~(7)~~.